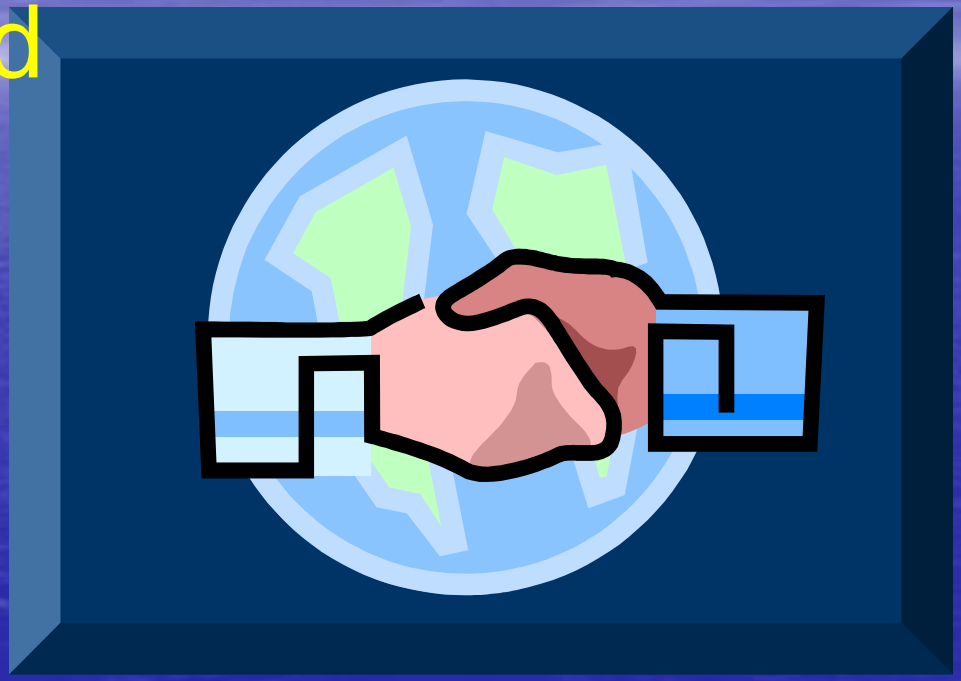
COLLABORATION,
COORDINATION,
AND COMMUNICATION
ON A REGIONAL LEVEL
The North Georgia Teams

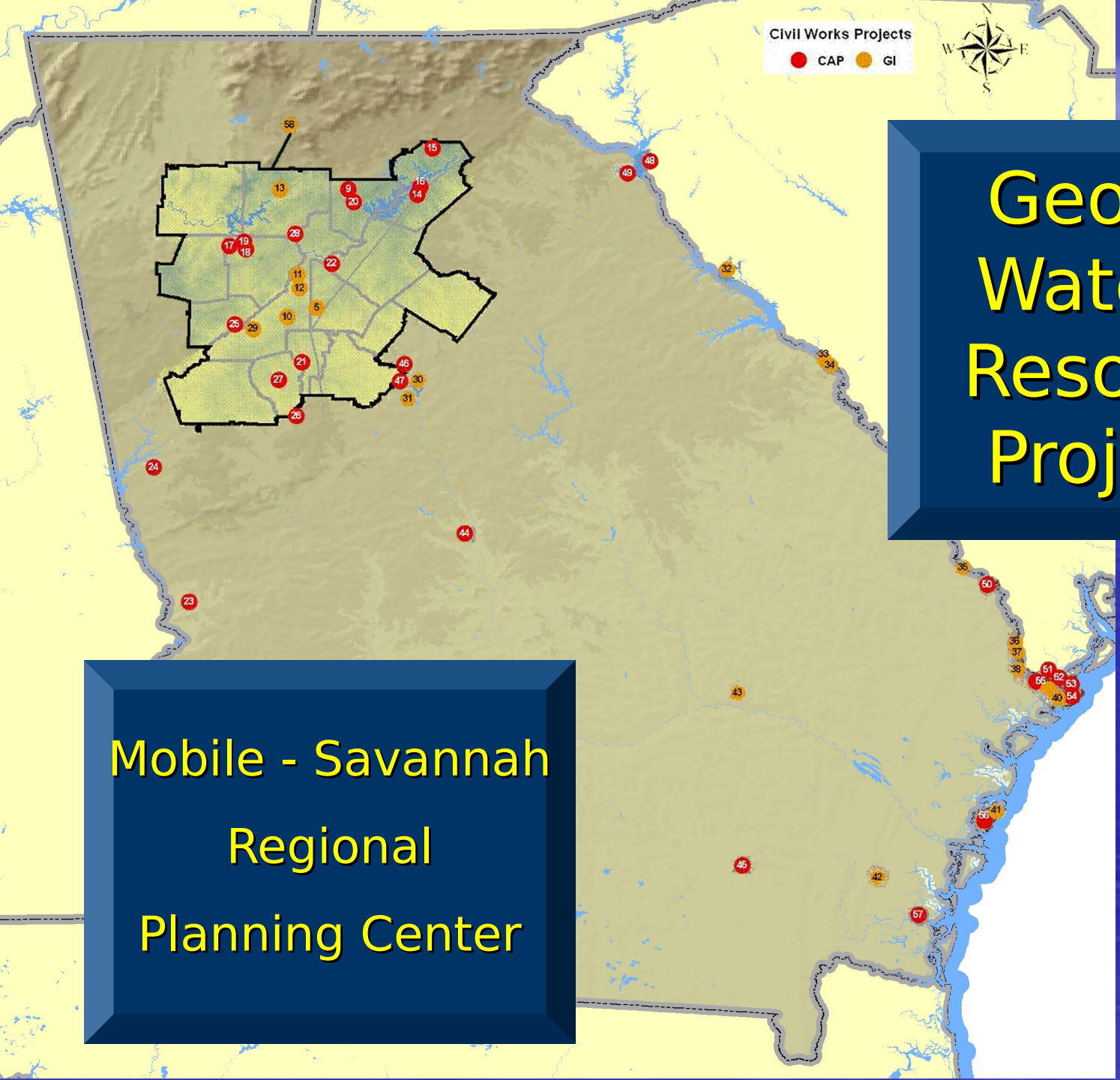
Need for a programmatic approach

Formation of North Georgia Watershed Team



Need for a collaborative effort

Development of the North Georgia Water Resource Agencies

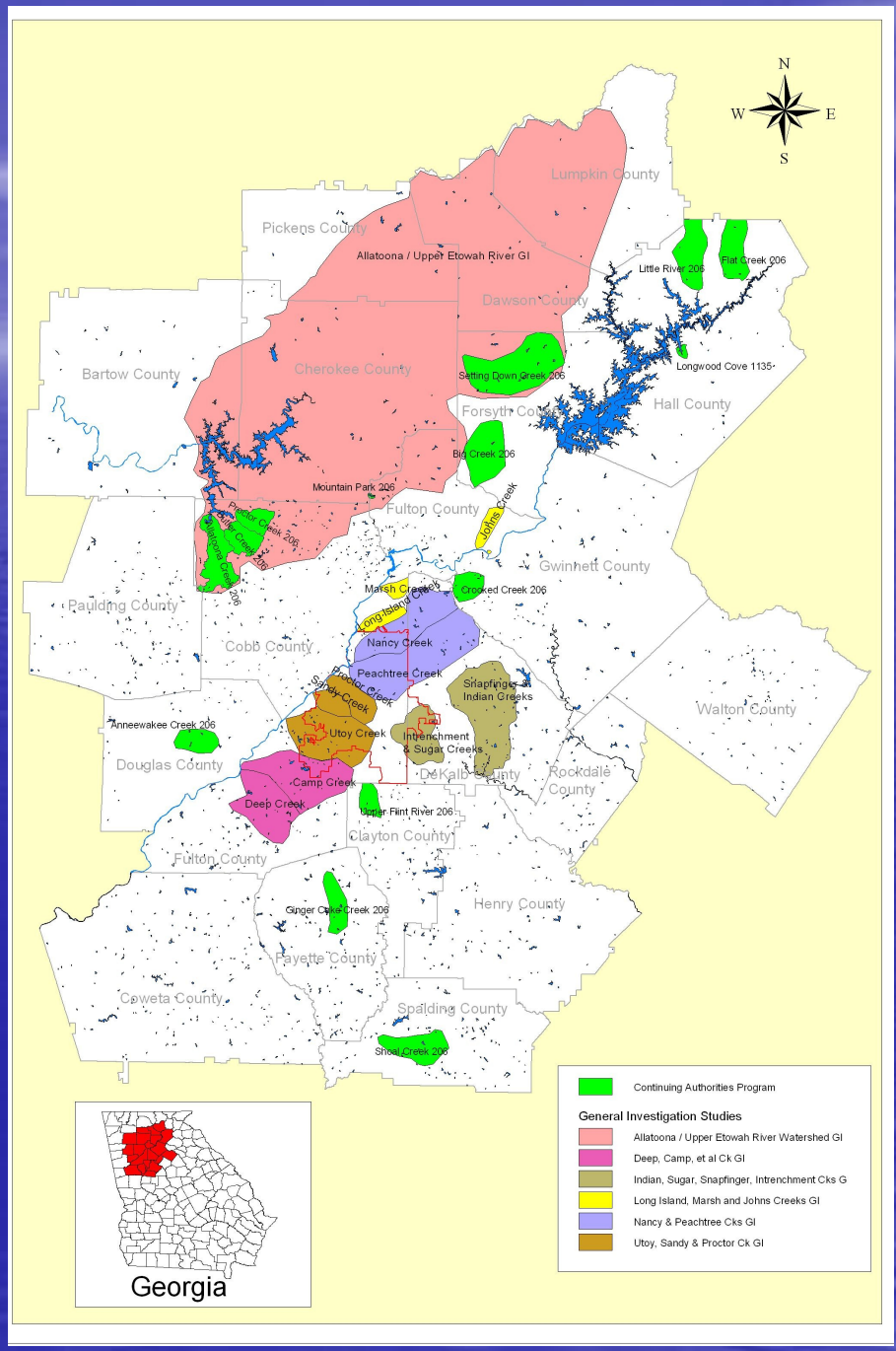


Georgia Water Resource Projects

Mobile - Savannah Regional Planning Center

Troubled Waters

- Common Setting
  - **Heavily urbanized**
  - **Same eco-region**
- Common Problems
  - **Flash flows**
  - **Sediment accumulation**
  - **Streambank erosion**
  - **Channel deepening**
  - **Habitat loss**
  - **Impaired water quality**



Strategy

- Form a regionalized Corps study team
  - **Identify efficiencies and common constraints**
  - **Identify stakeholders on a regional scale**
  - **Develop a collaborative process**
  - **Engage stakeholders as partners**
  - **Develop a consistent communication network**
  - **Streamline coordination with limited resources**

North Georgia Watershed Team (NGWT)

- **Project Manager** – Todd Boatman (SAM)
- **Plan Formulators** – Dean Trawick (SAM) & Monica Simon–Dodd (SAS)
- **Biologist** – Brian Zettle (SAM)
- **Economist** – Jeffery Morris (SAS)
- **Hydraulic Engineer** – Randall Harvey (SAM)

NGWT Goals

- Provide consistent coordination and guidance concerning policy and procedures as applicable to the North Georgia region
- Develop successful projects in the region

through deliberate collaborative planning

- Develop trust and foster long lasting relationships with sponsors, resource agencies, and stakeholders

Action Taken

- Invited all water resource related agencies, state and federal, to attend a workshop with the Corps and project Sponsors
- Established the North Georgia Water Resource Agencies working group (NGWRA)
- Held a total of four workshops over the past year

National Ecosystem Planning
Center of Expertise
State Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Georgia
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NGWRA
WILDLIFE RESOURCES DIVISION
GEORGIA
USGS
science for a changing world
EPD
NRCS
DEKALB COUNTY GEORGIA
1822
FULTON COUNTY

State Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Georgia

NGWRA Goals

- **Leverage limited resources**
- **Initiate early coordination**
- **Improve communication**
- **Support the collaborative planning process**
- **Focus efforts to develop and implement sound project solutions**

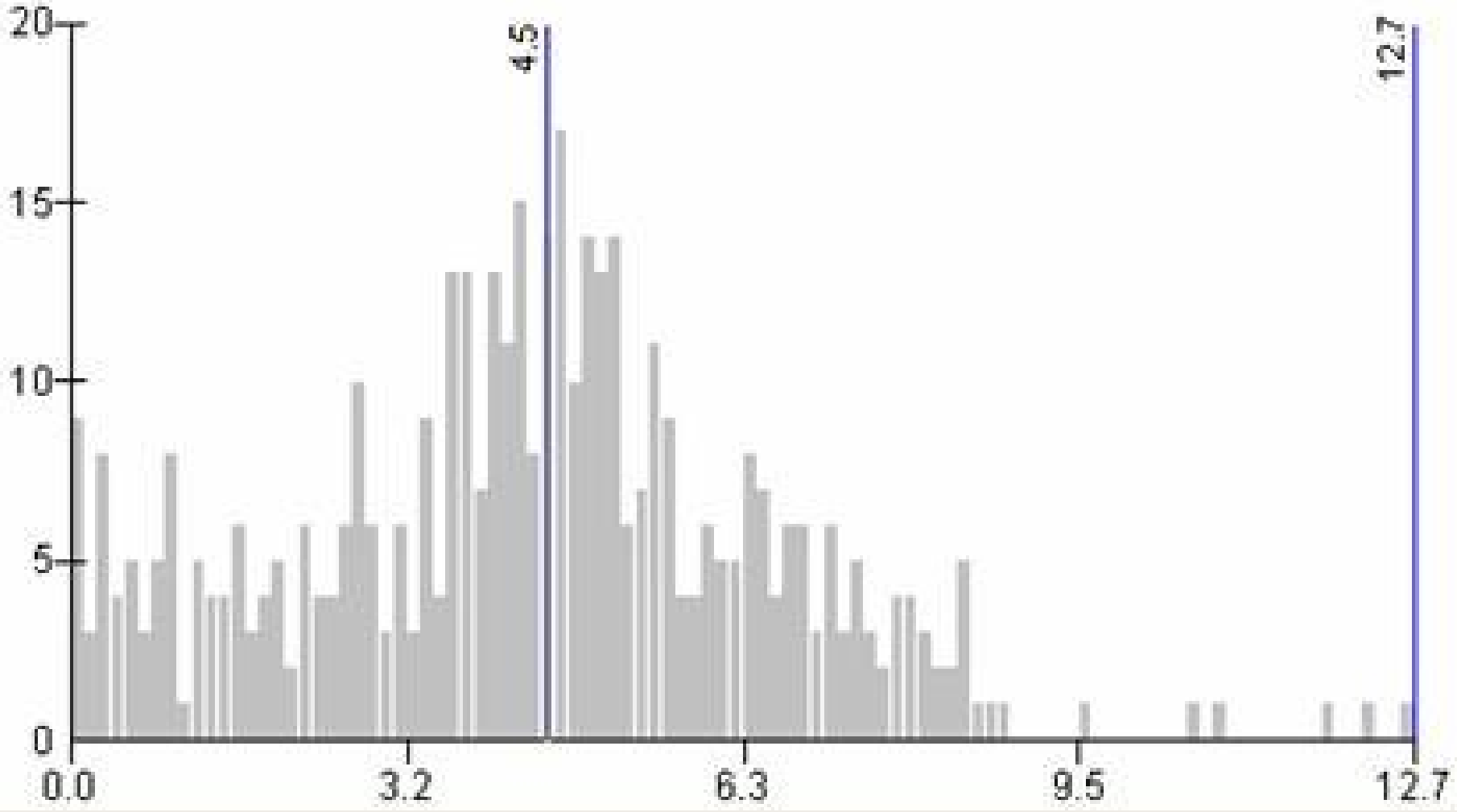
NGWRA Initial Objectives

- Determine parameters important to ecosystem restoration in streams
- Develop a regional model to quantify current and future stream health
- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding to demonstrate commitment of the working group
- Develop a regional monitoring plan for stream restoration projects
- Cross educate team members in agency policies and streamline processes

In-stream Ecosystem Response Model

- Parameters
  - **Physical, biological, and chemical**
- Inputs
  - **H&H modeling, including sediment**
  - **Visual habitat assessment**
  - **IBI scores (fish and bugs**
  - **Water quality scores**
- Output
  - **Ecological benefits**

Two Year Frequency Flow Velocities



Velocities (fps) on X axis, Number of occurrences on Y axis

Site Visits

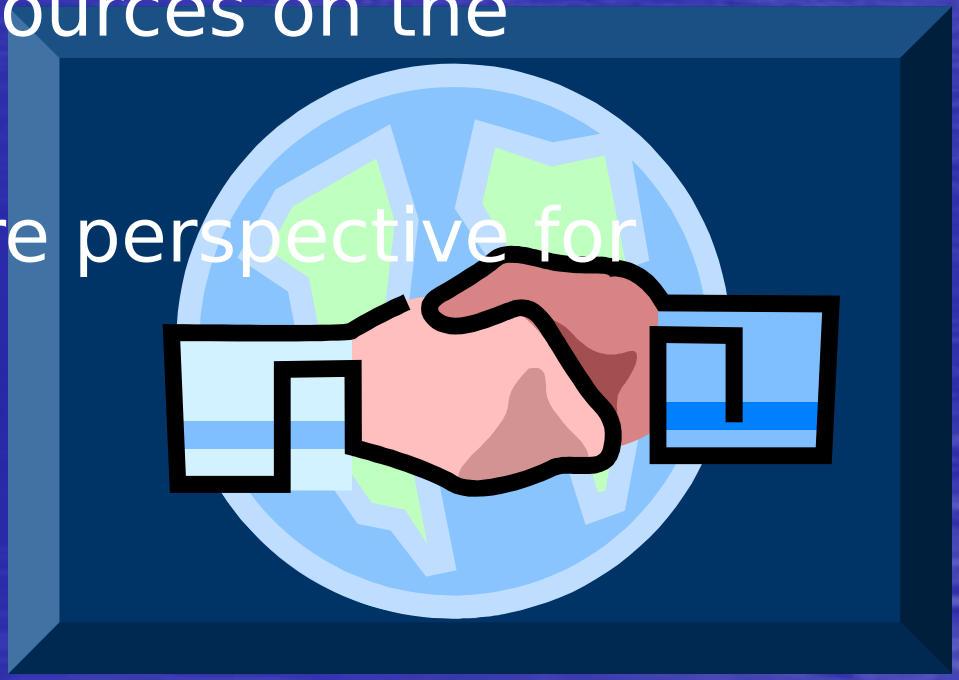
Tips (Lessons Learned)

- Create and maintain an open environment
- Meet on a regular basis (at least quarterly)
- Remain flexible and solicit input on everything
- Refrain from setting deadlines by project schedule
- Maintain discussions at
  rotate
  speakers from the grou
- Furnish read-ahead
  materials/agenda
- Conduct after action

Conclusion

- Develop focused Corps and interagency teams
- Take a deliberate approach to improve collaboration, coordination, and communication
- Leverage limited resources on the interagency level
- Maintain a big picture perspective for agreement
- Clear need
- Well received
- Early and often

Take away



Questions ?